COMMENT #30 - LETTER (page 1 of 2)

U.S. Department

of Transportation
Federal Highway
Administration

Susan Surigison HDA-CA (2)

> 400 Seventh St., S.W. Washington, D.C. 20590

August 20, 1998

Refer to: HPD-1

Mr. Morris Torres 1043 Country Club Drive Petaluna, CA 94952

Dear Mr. Torres:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President regarding road improvements in Sonoma County, California and highway funding formulas. Because the Federal Highway Administration oversees the Federal-aid highway program, your letter was forwarded to us for response. While I regret the delay of our response, I am pleased to reply for the President.

We appreciate the opportunity to review your concerns for additional lanes on State Route (SR) 101 near Santa Rosa. However, under the Federal-aid highway program, we do not decide which projects are funded. Instead, we make funds available to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) each year by statutory formula. Officials of Caltrans work with local officials to determine which projects will be funded. Our role, when Caltrans decides to use Federal-aid funds, is to work cooperatively with the State to ensure Federal requirements are met.

We discussed your letter with our field representatives in Sacramento, who work closely with Caltrans. A proposed project is under development by Caltrans at this time. The project will add one High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane in each direction on SR 101 from Santa Rosa Avenue to SR 12--from mile posts 14.9 to 19.7. The \$24 million project is in the preliminary environmental assessment stage. The Caltrans will present its findings to citizens and ask for their comments during a Public Meeting scheduled for October 15, 1998. The meeting will be advertised in local papers as October approaches. I invite you to attend, learn project details and share your comments with Caltrans officials.

If you would like information prior to the Public Meeting about the SR 101 project or other Caltrans projects, your State contact is Mr. Saaid Fakharzadeh, Caltrans Project Engineer. Mr. Fakharzadeh can also discuss with you Federal-aid funding for Sonoma County roads. He can be reached at (510) 286-4444. His mailing address is: Caltrans, District 4, 111 Grand Avenue, Oakland, California 95623.



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	Thank for your time to write the President. I hope the information provided is useful to you. Through our Sacramento Division Office, I will forward a copy of your letter to Caltrans officials and Mr. Fakharzadeh so they may also know of your concerns.	
	Sincerely yours,	
	Dev. That L. House	
	Dwight A. Horne, Chief Federal-Aid and Design Division	

## Sonoma 101 Widening & Soundwall Construction (Wilfred to Route 12) Final Negative Declaration/Final Environmental Assessment

## RESPONSE #30 - LETTER

## **Morris Torres**

Comment
Number

Response

30-A See Section 2.4.1 in this environmental document for a more complete discussion of transportation funding in the Bay Area.

The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) identifies transportation priorities/goals in the Bay Area. As for the widening of Route 101 from Santa Rosa to Novato, several projects make up this plan, and they are referenced in the RTP. The RTP includes two Tracks (1 and 2). Track 1 is the priority list to be funded; Track 2 projects are those that cannot be funded due to current funding constraints but that could be financed if alternate funds became available. This portion of Route 101 is divided into the following potential projects:

- 1. Route 101 from north of Wilfred Avenue to the Route 101/12 separation (current project)
- 2. Route 101 HOV lanes from Route 12 to Steele Lane in Santa Rosa (Track 1)
- 3. Route 101 lanes from Santa Rosa to Windsor (covers River Road to Steele Lane Track 1)
- 4. Route 101 HOV lanes from Novato to Petaluma (covers north of Preston Drive to 116E separation Track 1) and
- 5. Route 101 HOV lanes and interchange improvements from Santa Rosa to Route 116W in Cotati (Track 2 based on sales tax initiative funds).